

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2006 LB 940, 1154, 1184, 1236, 1246

motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Smith would move to amend with FA647. (Legislative Journal page 1304.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on your amendment to AM2411.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. As I indicated before, I support the committee amendments and the bills contained therein. I'm struggling to come up with a good enough reason to support what we would commonly refer to as the green copy. My concern is that we're adding some restrictions and burden perhaps by putting into statute rather than allowing it to occur outside of statute. And I guess I'm struggling with a good enough reason to why we need to add this new working group, if you will. I think homeland security and the issue of homeland security has been batted about because it is such a large mission, whether it's flooding in Louisiana or terrorism concerns across the country. But be it a natural disaster or otherwise, this homeland security issue has become somewhat of a political football. And I hate to see it get mired down in state statute, into kind of a lock-down system where such and such must occur, where because of the mission of homeland security issues it needs to be more flexible. So I propose to strike what we would call the green copy and only leave with us the amendments that would be LB 1154, LB 1184, LB 1246, and LB 1236. And perhaps I can be convinced otherwise, but I don't see where it's necessary to add this new commission. I know the fiscal note says that there's no expense, but I can guarantee you there will be expense to that, and especially if it's codified in statute. We'll start to find reasons for its own line item on the budget rather than perhaps using funds from existing line items within Health and Human Services or within law enforcement agencies or otherwise. I just don't see where the underlying LB 940 is necessary. And so I look forward to further debate on this. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard the opening on the Smith amendment, FA647. Senator Schimek, you're recognized.